



SPARK GAP

Vol. 33, Issue 10, October 2016 MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-three years

On Our MARC:

With a new term comes change. This time, it's our meeting place. Starting in November, our meetings will be held at the REMC building in Franklin. I will have maps to the new place at the meeting on Saturday. More information at the meeting.

I would like to thank Steve & Jeannie Brown for hosting the picnic again this year. We had lots of great food and stories to tell. Sure glad we had the garage to hold all of us. The rain came down pretty good in the beginning. Our cook was out in the rain cooking our lunch for us. Thanks Steve!

For those that didn't attend the picnic, here are your Officers for the current year: President - Jacki Frederick KI6QOG, Vice President - Bruce Tisdale K9ICP, Secretary - Rhonda Curtis WS9H, Treasurer - Marlys Barr KD9BHM and Trustee - Chris Frederick KQ9Y. I would like to thank Cy for the hard work on keeping track of our money.

Please mark your calendar for Oct 15th as Andrew Murrey will be hosting Jamboree on the air on with the Boy Scouts. They will be at Our Lady of Greenwood from noon until either the weather gets bad or they give up. Please listen for them or maybe drop by to say hello. Also, please mark Oct 31th for the Goblin patrol. I'm hoping Dave Daily will have more information for us at the meeting. This is a yearly event and the Greenwood Police Department and the Johnson County Sheriff's Department really appreciate our help. And most likely all the car and truck traffic on I-65.

Our speaker this month will be Jack Parker, W8ISH. He will be talking about how to set up your bio on QRZ.

Hope to see you Saturday!

Jacki KI6QOG

President





HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR OCTOBER

AF9SE-Steve Ellis
KC9NJM- Bob Jones
WB7PRF-David Litteral
KN9C-Rudy Richardson
WV9W-Jim Smith
KC9ZMV-Clifford Whitrock
W9BZ-Roger Lowary
KD9FFH-Greg Mitchum

ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER

Here are the activities for the month of October:

Dinner Social-Tues Oct 11-The Willard in Franklin. Brenda has made reservations for us about 5:30.

Monthly meeting-Sat Oct 15th at 8:00 am. We will still be at the EOC in Franklin. Our meeting place will change in Nov. More information at the meeting.

Jamboree on the Air Sat Oct 15th. At Our Lady of the Greenwood School. 8:30am - SETUP
Hopefully by Noon - Begin operating as W9J. The event runs throughout the night. As long as weather and conditions hold out. If you have any questions, please send Andrew Murrey an email at andy@murrey.org This is an event with the Boy Scouts.

Goblin Patrol- Monday Oct 31. More information to come at the meeting.

Jacki-ki6qog



APRS CLASS A BIG SUCCESS

Thanks to everyone who came to the Introduction to APRS class October 4th It was standing room only in the basement classroom of WRTFD Engine House 51. At last count 28 hams from Johnson and surrounding counties attended the Q & A session presented by Jack Parker-W8ISH.

Using a power point presentation designed by the author of APRS, Bob Bruniunga-WB4APR, the class learned about the history, technology and uses for this digital tracking and message system.

APRS began in 1992 after a brief period of Packet Radio across the US. As home PC's became more affordable hams began to abandon the Packet bulletin boards in lieu of the hyper text world of websites. Bob-WB4APR, an Electrical Engineering professor at the Naval Academy, decided to use the Packet Radio technology along with the new GPS technology to create a worldwide network of digipeaters used for tracking cars, planes, bikes, boats and home weather stations. Today it is possible via APRS, (Automatic Packet Reporting System) to send text messages or track friends around the world.

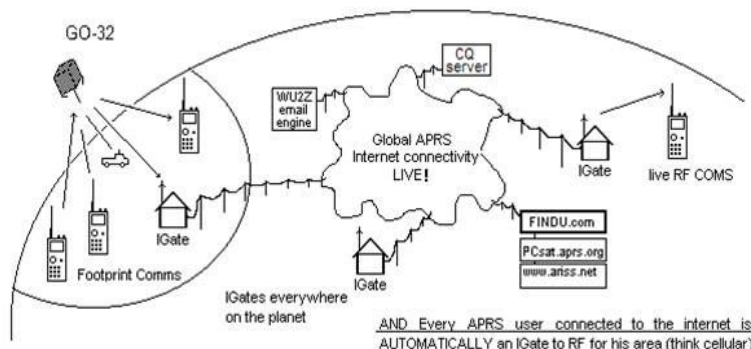
Check out www.aprs.org or ask Jack for help in getting your new APRS radio set up and running.



Face of the Kenwood D710, showing APRS data.

APRS Global Network

(End-to-End Everywhere)





Jack W8ISH talking about APRS



A very attentive class



Hurricane Watch Net Active as Hurricane Nicole Passes Over Bermuda

10/13/2016 ARRL NEWS

The Hurricane Watch Net (**HWN**) has activated as Hurricane Nicole, a Category 3 storm, passes over Bermuda. As of 1500 UTC, the eye of Nicole was moving over the small island nation. The National Hurricane Center in Miami has called Nicole “extremely dangerous.”

Hurricane Nicole packs maximum sustained winds of 120 MPH. At present, the storm is moving to the northeast at 16 MPH.

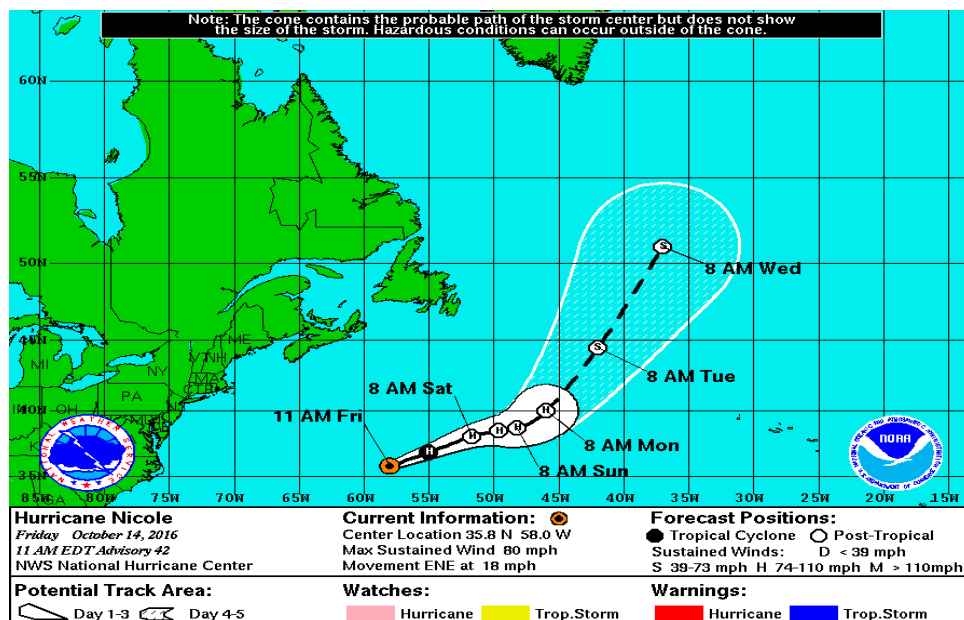
A Hurricane Warning is in effect for Bermuda. Nicole poses no threat to the US.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (**SATERN**) Net said it does *not* plan to shift into an extended monitoring status. SATERN operators are being encouraged to monitor the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, but should not check in.

The VoIP Hurricane Net (**VoIPWX**) also has activated through 2400 UTC. Stations on the net will monitor online weather stations and storm bloggers from the Caribbean Hurricane Network (**stormCARIB**), as well as social media.

The NHC said a dangerous storm surge will raise water levels by as much as 6 to 8 feet above normal tide levels in Bermuda. The surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves. Swells associated with Nicole will affect Bermuda during the next few days. These swells will create dangerous surf conditions and rip currents.

Nicole is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 4 to 8 inches over Bermuda.



GREENWOOD MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL

The Greenwood Marching Band Invitational 2016 is now in the books. MARC has supported this event since 1997 and provided public safety, directed traffic and parked thousands of vehicles. There were twenty four bands that participated in this year's contest of music and precision marching.

There were three emergency ambulance runs to the event due to the high temperatures that day and some other injuries to band members.

All was going pretty well until there was a delay in the awards to the Class C and D bands. This took longer than expected and the delay caused a back up of traffic from the high school building to Smith Valley Road but our experienced crew took charge of the situation and diverted traffic to other parking areas near the high school.

It was a long and tiring day but all that helped with this event did an excellent job and adjusted to the changing situations. Many thanks to the twelve MARC volunteers that helped with this event!

Here are some photos of that day:



Incoming Bus one of the 70+



Daily Cones



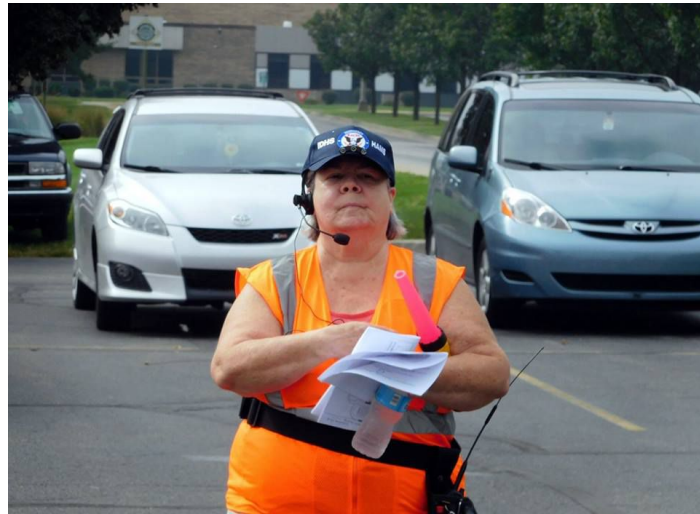
Rusty giving directions to Woodman Park



Jacki brought her own shade



Wilson with cars



Brenda gets ready for the day



Finally a chance to sit down

..... Thanks to Jack, Kevin and Brenda for the pictures

Should U.S. ham tests be given abroad?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a reader who wanted my opinion about a thread on the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list. The e-mail that started the discussion was a message from an American living in Italy who wanted to take the Technician Class exam. In her e-mail, she told of her troubles finding a test session, and then when she did find one, what she perceived as “irregularities” in the testing process. Reading the thread was a little disconcerting, and I blogged about this issue (<http://www.kb6nu.com/u-s-amateur-radio-license-exams-given-outside-u-s/>).

I understand why foreign national go to the trouble of taking the U.S. license exam. Some of them even buy my study guides. About a year ago, for example, I swapped some e-mail with a guy from Malaysia about why he purchased my study guide and why he wanted a U.S. license. He said that it was because a neighboring country offered reciprocal operating privileges to U.S. licensees, but not Malaysian licensees! He mentioned that he tested for the license in Thailand.

Basically, my Malaysian friend was using the U.S. licensing process to circumvent the Malaysian licensing process. Australians seem to do this, too. Apparently, according to one of the VKs who commented on the thread, getting a U.S. Tech license is easier than testing for an Australian Foundation license. So, some Australians get a U.S. Tech license first, then get the Australian government to issue them a VK Foundation license based on the reciprocal operating agreement between the U.S. and Australia.

Another reason that some outside the U.S. obtain U.S. amateur radio licenses is the challenge. That’s the reason Martin Butler, M0MRB/W9ICQ, of ICQPodcast fame, gave when I spoke to him about this recently.

Are these reasons "good enough" to continue this program of licensing non-U.S. citizens? My first reaction was that no, it's not good enough, and I questioned whether or not the ARRL VEC should sanction non-U.S. VEs and whether or not the FCC should even allow testing outside of the United States.

I didn't see the need for conducting these test sessions or the desirability (to the U.S.) of licensing foreign nationals. I reasoned that not only was there a greater possibility of test fraud, this program could lead to foreign authorities claiming that the U.S. was meddling in their affairs.

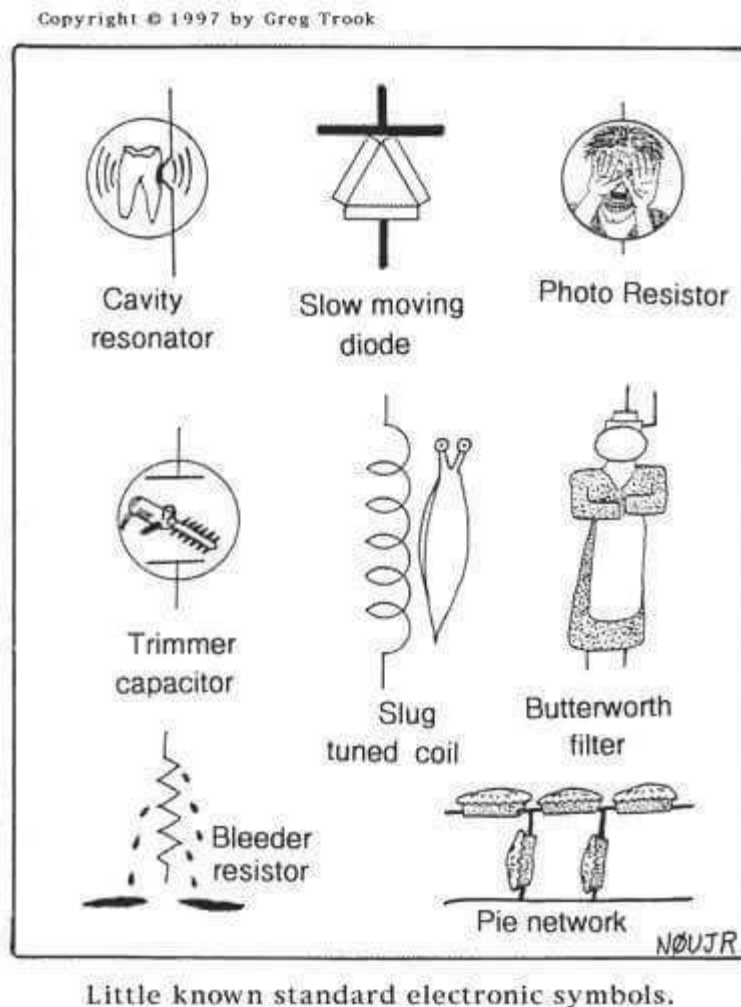
This post garnered a lot of comments. Several of them took me to task for voicing this opinion and were in favor keeping the current licensing program in place. There were a variety of reasons.

One of the reasons in favor of using the U.S. licensing process is that in many countries, amateur radio license exam sessions are not very frequent. Another is that they often are quite expensive. This creates an artificial barrier to getting an amateur radio license. Using the U.S. licensing system breaks through this barrier and allows many more to enjoy amateur radio.

Of course, for everything to be on the up and up, the foreign authorities would have to condone the use of U.S. license tests. Apparently, this is the case in Thailand and Australia. I don't know about Italy, but I'm guessing that the authorities there don't really care about Italians obtaining U.S. licenses.

Perhaps the best comment came from Thida, HS1ASC/KH6ASC. He noted that the tests in Thailand were administered very strictly, and says, "The U.S. may lose some callsigns, but what the U.S. and U.S. hams get from us is goodwill, very positive feeling. Everyone who gets U.S. license is so proud, and others look at them respectfully." Since Part 97.1(e) lists as one of the purposes of amateur radio, "Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill," I'm now all in favor of offering U.S. ham tests abroad.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. When he's not pondering the vagaries of the U.S. licensing system, you'll find him working CW on the HF bands.



..... Thanks to Chris KQ9Y for finding this.

ARES SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET)

The ARES SET was conducted on October 8th with fifteen amateurs participating. The scenario for the SET was an earthquake that took place on the Wabash Fault near the Terre Haute area. If there was a earthquake of 6.5 magnitude it could very well affect Central Indiana and Johnson County.

All stations participating played well with the scenario and there were some surprises thrown in the exercise to see how everyone would adjust to changing conditions in communications.

Thanks to all the amateur stations that participated in the SET for this year. You all did an outstanding job.

Anyone wanting to become part of Johnson County ARES please contact me at n9siu@yahoo.com and I will see that you receive an application for membership.

73, de Bob N9SIU Johnson County ARES/EC

UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

10/15/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Johnson County EOC, Johnson County Law Enforcement Center.

10/31/2016 – Goblin Patrol TBA

11/19/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location, Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

**11/12/2016 – Indiana State Convention
(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)**

Location: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

12/17/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting and Christmas Pitch-in Breakfast at the New Location, Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

01/21/2016 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location, Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the New Johnson County EOC 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeaters:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale -- K9ICP
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Marlys Barr – KD9BHM
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

Please see Marlys Barr KD9BHM at the meeting Saturday if you would like to become a member of our club.

